(ii) Paper units using minimum 75% agro-residues such as bagasse, jute etc. are fully exempted from excise duty.

(iii) Paper mills using agro-residues and other non-conventional raw materials atleast upto 50% are charged excise duty at concessional rates.

(iv) Import of wood pulp and waste paper is freely allowed under the EXIM policy at a low rate of customs duty without any need for obtaining import licence.

Central Pulp & Paper Research Institute (CPPRI), Saharanpur, an autonomous body under Government and a premier institution for R&D in paper technology, has undertaken several projects to assist non-wood based pulp and paper industry. The Institute is also engaged in developing appropriate technology for chemical recovery plant for small pulp mills using non wood raw material.

Establishment of BICP

444. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO: DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) when was the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices established;

(b) what are its functions;

(c) what is the number of reports published by the bureau so far; and

(d) whether Government propose to nominate non-official persons as advisors to the bureau?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices was established on 15th of January, 1970.

(b) Its functions are to—

(i) recommend fair nominative prices for goods and services under the administered pricing regime;

(ii) advise the Government on price deregulation;

(iii) tender advice on the various issues pertaining to cost reduction, improvement of Industrial efficiency and pricing problems in relation to Industrial costs;

(iv) recommend tariff levels and advise on tariffrelated issues;

(v) advise on pricing guidelines and flexible mechanism for the public utilities and infrastructural sectors; and

(vi) advise on resource efficiency developmental issues including international competitiveness.

(c) The bureau has published 17 reports so far out of 695 reports submitted to the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

Special fund for the development of indegenous technology

445. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute an Indian Research and Development Authority to provide special fund to develop indigenous technology; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, (DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up an Industrial Research and Development Authority